

Federations" with the aim of making it more effective and result oriented. Towards this end, the infrastructure available with the Sports Authority of India for training purposes is also being upgraded. However, it is also for the NSFs concerned with various games, including Football, Hockey and Cricket to take appropriate measures for improvement of performance at the international level.

Separately the Ministry is also considering the launching of a 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with the aim of significantly enhancing access to organized sports and games facilities for the youth, particularly in the rural areas, and in the process widening the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent and promotion of excellence in sports, and thereby also enhancing the levels of performance and achievements at the national and international levels. Discussions with the State Governments, the Ministries concerned and other stake holders in this regard are underway.

National games in Jharkhand in 2007

†2565. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest information available with Government regarding national games to be held in Jharkhand in 2007.
- (b) whether Government are satisfied with preparations being made for such games; and
- (c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Indian Olympic Association have allotted the 34th National Games to be held in 2007 to Jharkhand. However, the specific dates are yet to be finalized. In all, 28 sports events are expected to take place, out of which 20 events are proposed to be conducted at Ranchi and 8 events at Jamshedpur. The infrastructure projects being constructed for the National Games include: the Main Stadium; indoor stadia for Badminton/ Table Tennis, Basketball/Volleyball and Gymnastics; Velodrome; Shooting Range; playfields for Kho kho/Kabaddi; Games Village; renovation of the Birsa Munda Stadium; and hockey stadium with astro-turf.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) and (c) The responsibility for all the preparations for the National Games lies with the State Government. As per the information given by the State Government, construction work is at present slightly behind schedule owing to heavy rains during June-September, 2006. However, a mitigation plan has been prepared by them to overcome the delays and all the works are expected to be completed by September, 2007.

Setting up of Special Cell for the Commonwealth Games

2566. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to take special steps for giving priority to sports activities in the country, keeping in view the 2010 Commonwealth Games;
- (b) whether the places providing lodging facilities to the visiting sports-person and participants have been identified;
- (c) whether Government propose to set up any Special Cell for the Commonwealth Games and appoint special skilled staff for the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Government is giving the required priority and focussed attention to various matters pertaining to the Commonwealth Games-2010, including timely establishment of the required infrastructure and facilities, arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Games, and preparation of teams for the Games. For this purpose, close coordination and interaction is also being maintained with all the concerned stake-holders, including the Organising Committee for the Commonwealth Games-2010, the Government of NCT of Delhi, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and, in the context of the preparation of teams, with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and SAI. Besides, Government have under consideration a Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan to stimulate sports activities country-wide, particularly in rural India.